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Lot.15

Russia, Saint Petersburg

St Petersburg

WHOA
WHAT IS THIS...?
THIS—
WAS TAKUTO'S APARTMENT.

THAT IDIOT'S CARELESS AFTER ALL.
...BUT, THIS ISN'T JUST CARELESSNESS...
IT'S BEEN SEARCHED.
HIS COMPUTER'S BROKEN.
SO THAT'S WHY HE DIDN'T RESPOND TO OUR EMAILS...
THIS IS BAD.
CLICK CLICK

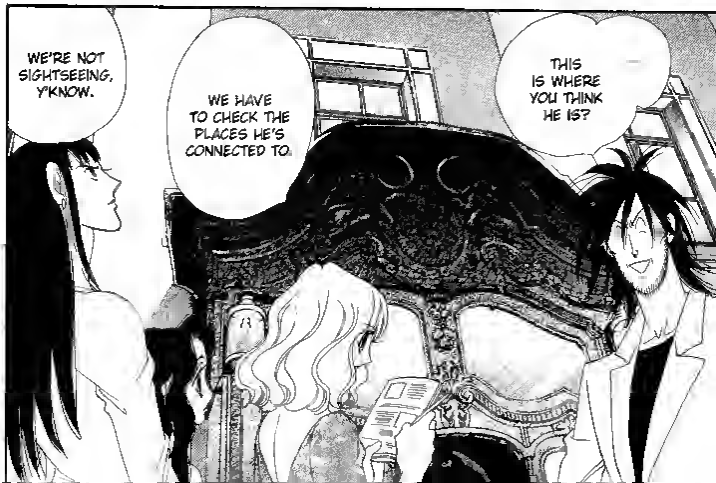
THERE'S A RUMOR IN ROMANOV THAT TAKUTO TRIED TO SELL THE "RASPUTIN COLLECTION."
twitch
HE MIGHT'VE BEEN KILLED BY THE MAFIA.
NO WAY!
MAFIA?
VLADIMIR'S IMPORTANT PERSON, MIHAJLOVIC, WAS PART OF THE MAFIA
SENA AND THE MAFIA... IT'S POSSIBLE.
THERE'S NO WAY SENA WOULD DIE!
WHAT "SIX PIECES OF RASPUTIN'S COLLECTION" DID SENA HAVE, ANYWAY!?

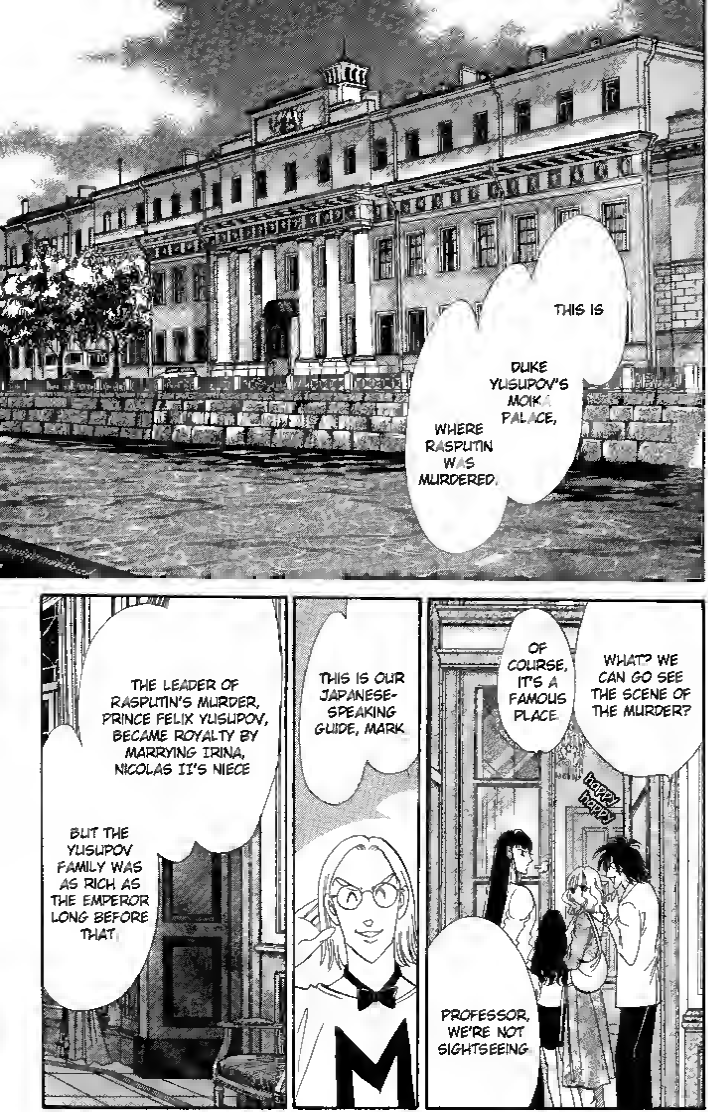
I DON'T KNOW
VLADIMIR RASPUTIN DIDN'T LIKE...
SILENCE
DO WE HAVE ANY OTHER CLUES?
WE SHOULD GO BACK, IN CASE THE MAFIA COME BACK HERE
THIS IS A NORMAL CITIZENS' COMMON SENSE
IT'S VLADIMIR'S REHEARSAL TIME
CALL ME IF YOU'RE IN TROUBLE
WE'RE IN TROUBLE RIGHT NOW!
"THE WEIRD BALLET PRINCE"
HE'S COMPLETELY USELESS
IS HE REALLY TAKUTO'S FRIEND?
WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL THAT HE LET THE FOUR OF US RIDE ON THE PLANE FOR FREE
WE HAVE TO DO THE REST BY OURSELVES--
SEIRA-SAN, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS?
YOU'RE RUSSIAN, RIGHT?
HMM

POPLAR AND DANDELION SEEDS DANCE THROUGH THE AIR THE WHOLE DAY...
YEP— RUSSIA'S BEST SEASON.
SO EVEN IF WE SEARCH THROUGH THE NIGHT, WE'LL HAVE PLENTY OF LIGHT.
IT'S THE MIDNIGHT SUN SEASON RIGHT NOW.
THE COUNTRY WHERE SENA WAS BORN
AND WHERE HE LIVED
HE USED TO SEE THESE BUILDINGS EVERY DAY

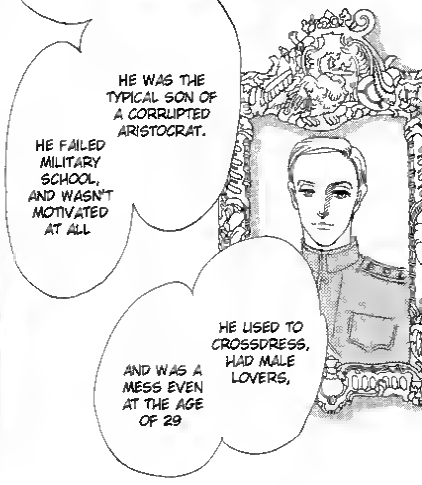
RIGHT NOW, IT'S THE THIRD LARGEST MUSEUM IN THE WORLD, THE "HERMITAGE."
THIS IS THE ROYAL PALACE, WHICH HAS BEEN USED BY MANY GENERATIONS OF THE ROMANOV FAMILY, SENA'S ANCESTORS.
AND WHEN HE WAS HATED BY THE ROMANOV FAMILY.
WHEN THE IMPERIAL PRINCESS DIED,
I WONDER HOW HE FELT WHEN HE SAW THIS.

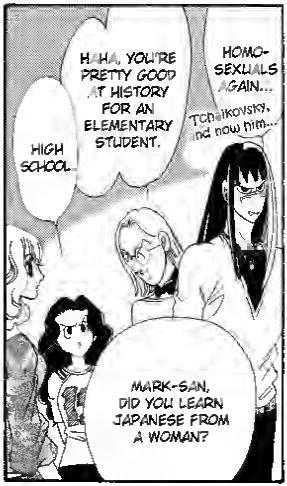
VLADIMIR'S PERFORMING HERE NEXT WEEK
THIS IS A RUSSIAN BALLET PALACE, MARIINSKY THEATRE
SENA WAS AIMING FOR THIS ONCE.

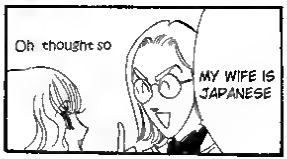

WE'RE NOT SIGHTSEEING, Y'KNOW.
WE HAVE TO CHECK THE PLACES HE'S CONNECTED TO.
THIS IS WHERE YOU THINK HE IS?


THIS IS
DUKE YUSUPOV'S MOIKA PALACE,
WHERE RASPUTIN WAS MURDERED.
THE LEADER OF RASPUTIN'S MURDER, PRINCE FELIX YUSUPOV, BECAME ROYALTY BY MARRYING IRINA, NICOLAS II'S NIECE
BUT THE YUSUPOV FAMILY WAS AS RICH AS THE EMPEROR LONG BEFORE THAT.
THIS IS OUR JAPANESE-SPEAKING GUIDE, MARK.
M
OF COURSE, IT'S A FAMOUS PLACE.
WHAT? WE CAN GO SEE THE SCENE OF THE MURDER?
HAPPY HAPPY
PROFESSOR, WE'RE NOT SIGHTSEEING.

IT IS MENTIONED IN HIS MEMOIRS THAT HE DECIDED TO ASSASSINATE RASPUTIN,
BECAUSE HE WAS MANIPULATING THE EMPRESS AND WOULD LEAD RUSSIA TO RUIN
WASN'T THAT THE REASON?
I DON'T THINK HE'S THE TYPE TO DO THAT


HE WAS THE TYPICAL SON OF A CORRUPTED ARISTOCRAT.
HE FAILED MILITARY SCHOOL, AND WASN'T MOTIVATED AT ALL
HE USED TO CROSSDRESS, HAD MALE LOVERS,
AND WAS A MESS EVEN AT THE AGE OF 29

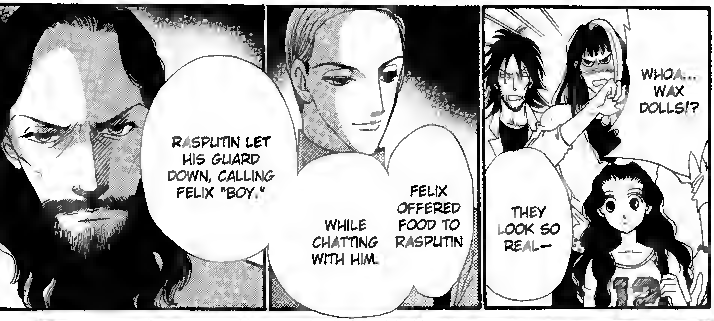

HAHA, YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT HISTORY FOR AN ELEMENTARY STUDENT.
HOMO-SEXUALS AGAIN...
Tchaikovsky, and now him...
HIGH SCHOOL
MARK-SAN, DID YOU LEARN JAPANESE FROM A WOMAN?

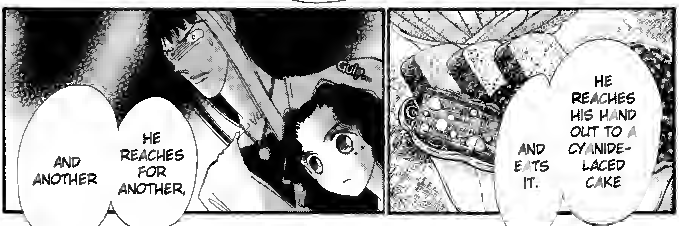

MY WIFE IS JAPANESE
Oh thought so

IN THE BOOK I READ, FELIX PRESSED RASPUTIN, BUT RASPUTIN BLUNTLY REFUSED, SO FELIX HATED HIM.
!

HE'S LONG-HAIRED AND SLIM, HAS A BEARD AND SHARP EYES,
THERE'S A LOT OF WEIRD PICTURES OF HIM BECAUSE HE WAS TREATED LIKE A MONSTER. BUT IF YOU LOOK AT HIS OTHER PICTURES,
HE'S ABOUT 45, AND UNEQUALED IN ENERGY.
I get it!
RASPUTIN'S PRETTY HAND-SOME.
WHAT!?
HIGH SCHOOL!
HAHA, YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD FOR A MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT.
ON THE RUSSIAN CALENDAR DECEMBER 16TH 1916,
WESTERN CALENDAR DECEMBER 29TH, MIDNIGHT,
RASPUTIN WAS LURED HERE BY FELIX.
BECAUSE FELIX TOLD HIM THAT HE'D LET HIM MEET HIS BEAUTIFUL AND FAMOUS NEW WIFE, IRINA.
I PRAISED HIM TOO MUCH.
Hohohe!
ISN'T THAT YOU?
RASPUTIN'S TOO NORMAL HE WAS A HOMOPHOBIC WOMANIZER.
THAT LEAD THE STARETS RASPUTIN TO HIS DEATH.

THAT WAS A BOLD-FACED LIE,
AND THE MEMBERS OF THE MURDER PLOT WERE WAITING HERE TO KILL HIM
CREAK
THIS WAY.
RASPUTIN WAS LED DOWN THIS NARROW STAIRWAY BY FELIX,
INTO A STORAGE ROOM HALFWAY UNDER-GROUND.
FELIX HAD THE ROOM REBUILT INTO A DINING ROOM FOR THE MURDER.
ON THE TABLE THERE WERE CAKES AND COOKIES LACED WITH CYANIDE
AND A WINE GLASS.


WHOA... WAX DOLLS!?
THEY LOOK SO REAL—
FELIX OFFERED FOOD TO RASPUTIN
WHILE CHATTING WITH HIM.
RASPUTIN LET HIS GUARD DOWN, CALLING FELIX "BOY."


HE REACHES HIS HAND OUT TO A CYANIDE-LACED CAKE
AND EATS IT.
HE REACHES FOR ANOTHER.
AND ANOTHER

NO MATTER HOW MUCH HE DRINKS, NOTHING HAPPENS
ONE CUP, TWO CUPS, THREE CUPS
MADEIRA WINE IN THE CYANIDE-FILLED CUP
PANICKING, FELIX OFFERS
BUT NOTHING HAPPENS
IN FACT, RASPUTIN BECOMES CHEERFUL
AND THEN ASKS FELIX TO SING.
FELIX STIFFLY HOLDS HIS GUITAR AND SINGS.
RASPUTIN'S GREEN EYES HAD AN INTENSE POWER.
IT WAS SAID HE COULD PUT PEOPLE TO SLEEP JUST BY LOOKING INTO THEIR EYES.
LIKE A FROG WATCHED BY A SNAKE,
FELIX CONTINUES HIS SINGING FOR TWO HOURS.

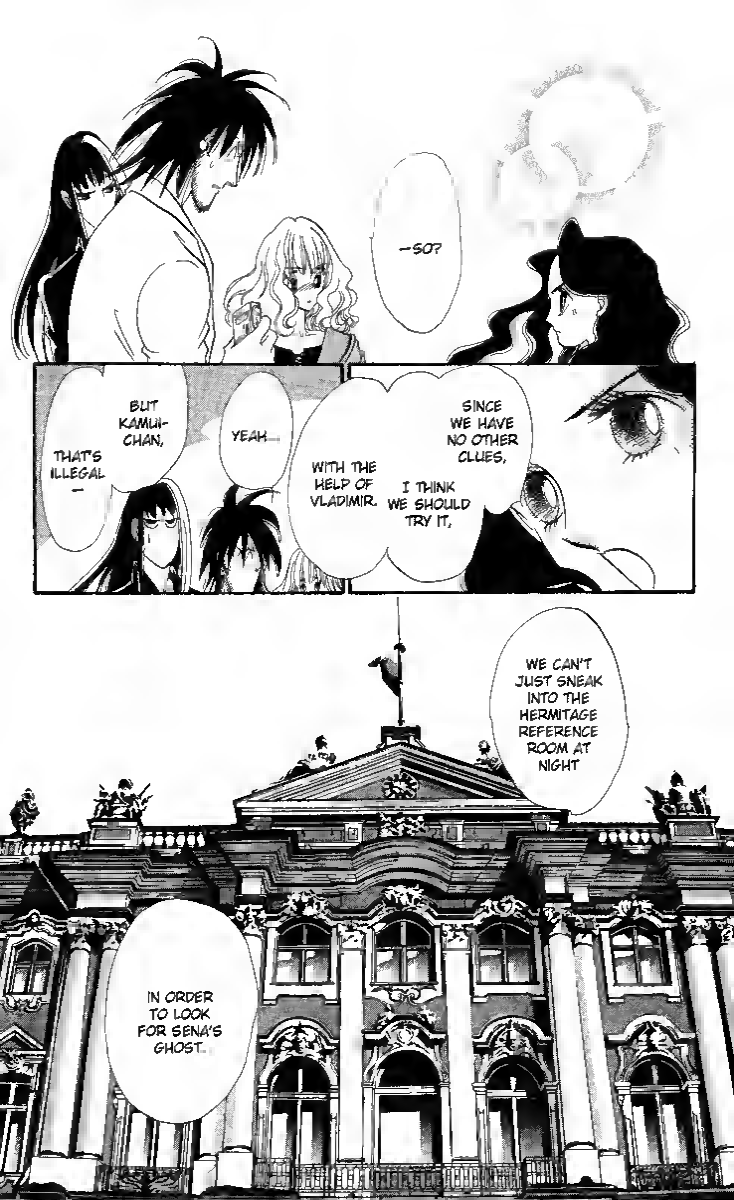
EVENTUALLY, FELIX CANNOT BEAR THE TERROR
HE MAKES UP A REASON TO EXCUSE HIMSELF AND LEAVES THE ROOM TO SEEK HELP FROM THE OTHERS.
HE BORROWS A PISTOL AND DESCENDS ONCE MORE
AND AIMING FOR RASPUTIN'S HEART--
BANG...!!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF HER.
grab
THE SHOT SIGNALS THE OTHERS
fssss
AND THEY COME RUSHING IN
wobble
KAMUI-CHAN?
THE BULLET PIERCED THROUGH HIS HEART...
FELIX BEGAN PLANNING TO DUMP THE CORPSE INTO THE NEVA RIVER
SORRY, SUMI-KUN.

EVERY-
THING
SUDDENLY
WENT
DARK
I'LL BE
FINE IF I
REST
WHEN I
THOUGHT
THAT SENA
MIGHT BE LIKE
THIS, I...
SUMI... KUN?
SENA
IS DEAD
THIS STARETS WILL
COMFORT YOU!

BUT FELIX IS UNEASY, AND RETURNS TO THE CORPSE
RASPUTIN OPENS HIS EYES, AND...
SLAP
SENA ISN'T DEAD!
"SENA"--
MARK'S FRIEND
SUMI-KUN, YOU'RE TOO EASILY POSSESSED BY RASPUTIN!
SENA'S JUST MISSING!!
WHAT..? OH...
I BECAME A DIRTY MIDDLE-AGED MAN FOR A MOMENT..

I JUST HEARD THAT HE FOUND HIM YESTER-DAY—
WHERE?
—IN THE HERMIT-AGE'S STORAGE ROOM—
HE SAW HIS GHOST
"GHOST"...?
MARK'S ACTUAL JOB IS A KEY SPECIALIST, AND HE FREQUENTS THE HERMITAGE BECAUSE OF IT.
SENA WAS THERE FOR ARTWORK MANAGEMENT, AND THEY FIRST MET THERE.
THE IMPERIAL PRINCESS FREQUENTLY STORES HER OWN ART IN THE HERMITAGE AND BORROWS ITEMS FROM IT, AS WELL
THERE MIGHT BE A RECORD OF HER BORROWING THE "RASPUTIN COLLECTION"—


—SO?
SINCE WE HAVE NO OTHER CLUES,
I THINK WE SHOULD TRY IT,
WITH THE HELP OF VLADIMIR.
YEAH...
BUT KAMUI-CHAN,
THAT'S ILLEGAL —
WE CAN'T JUST SNEAK INTO THE HERMITAGE REFERENCE ROOM AT NIGHT
IN ORDER TO LOOK FOR SENA'S GHOST...

IS VLADIMIR READY?
I'LL GO ASK!!
CALL THE MAKEUP CREW
YES.

Dressing Room
flop
flop
flop
VLADIMIR'S MAKEUP CREW!!
YES
cough
cough
VLADIMIR
cough
NO
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?
YES
IF YOU GET CAUGHT, I'LL DENY HAVING ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS
YES?
TONIGHT AND TOMORROW,
I'LL BE POSING FOR A PHOTO SHOOT AT THE HERMITAGE.
DURING THAT TIME, KAMUI WILL SEARCH THE REFERENCE ROOM
YES?

CARD KEY?
DON'T WORRY. WE WON'T GET CAUGHT.
EVEN IF WE DO, WE WON'T TELL THEM THAT YOU...
KAMUI.
THE KEY TO THE STORAGE ROOM AND THE REFERENCE ROOM
I PAID MARK TO MAKE IT.
VLADIMIR?
IF YOU ENCOUNTER THE MAFIA DURING YOUR RESEARCHING, RUN FOR IT!
BUT IF YOU DON'T, THEN DO ANYTHING TO REACH YOUR GOAL.
LASTLY, IF YOU NEED ME TO COME AND SAVE YOU,
CALL MY NAME

AGH...
THANK YOU, VLADIMIR!
YOU'RE SO COOL—
VLADIMIR, START!!

THE PALACE IS A BIT SCARY WHEN THERE ARE NO PEOPLE AROUND
POOP

THERE ARE STORIES OF CATERINA, NICHOLAS AND RASPUTIN APPEARING.
GHOSTS MIGHT COME OUT. MAYBE NOT EVEN TAKUTO'S GHOST.
STOP IT!!
ACCORDING TO THE MAP, THE ROOM IS AT THE END OF THIS HALLWAY.
IT'S THIS ONE.
THE ROOM THAT SENA'S GHOST WAS IN.
THE REFERENCE ROOM.

OKAY NOW
LET'S FIND WHAT SENA WAS LOOKING FOR HERE
EVERYONE SPREAD OUT
EVERY-THING IS IN RUSSIAN
WE CAN'T READ IT
SEIRA-SA
YES!
EVEN IN RUSSIA, I THINK THERE MUST BE A DATABASE COMPUTER SOMEWHERE AROUND
WE CAN USE THAT TO FIND THE SPECIFIC LOCATION OF THE DOCUMENTS.
Well, yeah. Computers are computers.
REALLY?
THERE'S A PASSWORD ON IT. I CAN'T GET IN
click click
THE NUMBER OF STORAGE ITEMS ALONE IS ABOUT 3 MILLION.
WOW!
Put this card in
DON'T WORRY. I BROUGHT THIS SECRET WEAPON JUST IN CASE
ALRIGHT, I'M IN!
click click
CATEGORY "ICON"

"N"...
"N"...
SHELF #75, FILE N-238!!
"FOLDABLE ICON, EIGHT PIECES"!!
KEYWORDS "ANNA VYRUBOVA," "RASPUTIN."
"H"...
FOUND IT!!
WAIT! IN RUSSIAN, THE ENGLISH "N" IS WRITTEN AS "H"!
"FOLDABLE ICON, EIGHT PIECES."
YES...!!
GOT IT!!

THIS IS IT!!
THERE ARE SIX ICONS, INCLUDING RASPUTIN'S.
SO TAKUTO HAD THESE WHEN HE WENT MISSING.
THE "ICON OF RASPUTIN" AND
"RASPUTIN'S CURSED CROSS" WHICH IS IN JAPAN, ARE LISTED HERE AS WELL?!

I DON'T THINK SO
THAT'S NOT LIKE HIM..
THE "ICON" IS A BIT SIMILAR TO THE JAPANESE MANDALA
IF SENA-KUN IS ALIVE, MAYBE HE DIDN'T WANT TO HAND IT OVER TO THE ROMANOV FAMILY BECAUSE OF HIS MEMORIES WITH THE IMPERIAL PRINCESS
SEIRA-SAN, CAN YOU READ THE CAPTION?
DOES THIS SPACE ON THE LEFT SIDE OF RASPUTIN MEAN THAT THIS ICON IS GONE?
IN THIS WHITE SPACE!!
I'M MORE INTERESTED—
"THIS EIGHT-PIECE SET WENT MISSING."
"SOON AFTER RASPUTIN'S DEATH,"
SUMI-KUN, WATCH THE DOOR
LET'S TAKE A PICTURE OF IT
YES—!!
UM...
"IN 1913, ORDERED BY ANNA VYRUBOVA AND SENT TO RASPUTIN."

THE CROSS IS CONSIDERED SEPARATE, AND IS PASSING FROM OWNER TO OWNER AS THE "CURSED CROSS"
THE IMPERIAL PRINCESS OF THE ROMANOV FAMILY BOUGHT AND COLLECTED THEM AND ENTRUSTED THEM TO THE HERMITAGE
AFTER THE REVOLUTION, THE ICONS WERE SCATTERED ALL OVER THE WORLD
SIGNED BY THE EMPEROR AND HIS DAUGHTERS... DOES THAT MEAN THE EMPEROR'S FAMILY DREW THESE ICONS...?
I KNOW.
HUH?
IT IS NOT KNOWN WHY NICHOLAS II AND HIS FOUR DAUGHTERS SIGNED THEIR NAMES ON THE BACK OF EACH ICON.
THE "ICON OF THE VIRGIN" IS MISSING AS OF NOW.
BUT THE ICON ORIGINALLY IN THE MIDDLE LEFT.
"ICON OF THE VIRGIN"?

SENA IS ALIVE
HE CAN'T BE DEAD!
...!? ,
AAAH!
FLASH
HURRY UP, KAMUI
Wander
Wander

WHAP
SHUSH.
DAMN
KAMUI, SECURITY IS COMING THIS WAY!
OH..
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
!
HURRY, LET'S GO!
...!!
...?

HSM!
HAVE THEM BE SILENT!!
I CAN'T CONCENTRATE
OKAY.
HEY, EVERYO
Aaaah!
A GHOST...
AN ENORMOUS FACE...
WH...
NO WAY..

I
WHAT IS...
RASPUTIN !?

DID YOU REQUEST THIS FOR THE PHOTO SHOOT!?
NO!
Agh!
MAYBE IT'S SOMEONE'S PRANK...
...SUMI-KUN?
TH- THAT STATUE JUST MOVED!!
DIRECTOR! THERE'S A PICTURE OF RASPUTIN IN THE PROJECTOR...
WHO DID THIS!?

RASPUTIN'S GHOST...!!
Aaah!
SUMI-KUN?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

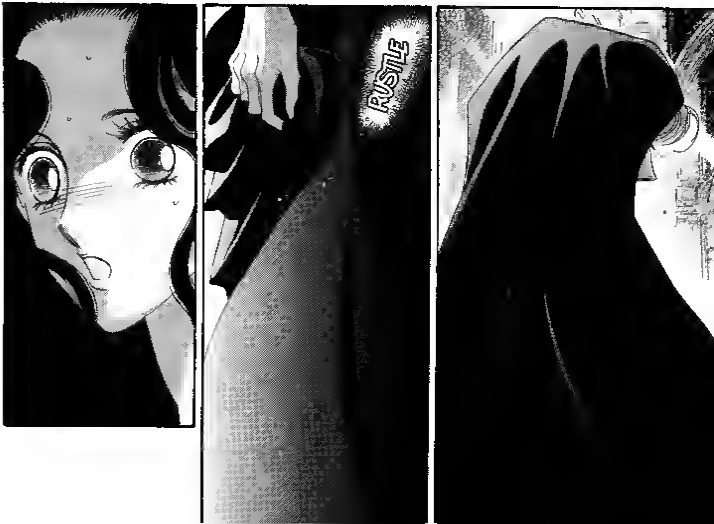
WHERE'S MY CAPE?
I put it right here
I DON'T KNOW...
THERE'S ANOTHER ONE!
Aah!
IT REALLY IS A GHOST!
CALM DOWN, IT'S A PERSON!!
CATCH HIM!!

THERE AND THERE...
BUT
AT LEAST ONE OF THEM—

IT'S SUMI-KUN
WHAT?
LOOK AT RASPUTIN'S FACE.
HE'S POSSESSED AGAIN
Aah—
HE'S SO FUNNY
IT ISN'T FUNNY!
IF WE DON'T STOP HIM, HE'LL GET CAUGHT
I AM...
RASPUTIN.

Muahahaha!
IF ONE OF THEM IS SUMI-KUN,
IS
SUMI-KUN, WAIT!
WAKE UP, SUMI~
THEN THE OTHER ONE IS—
WAIT!

IT'S ME, KAMUI!
WAIT...


RUSTLE

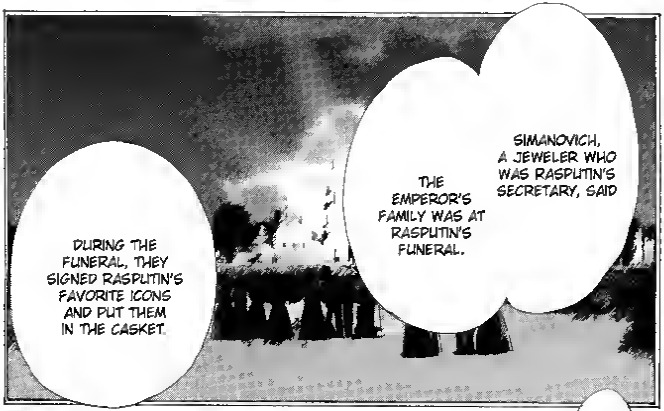
SENA .

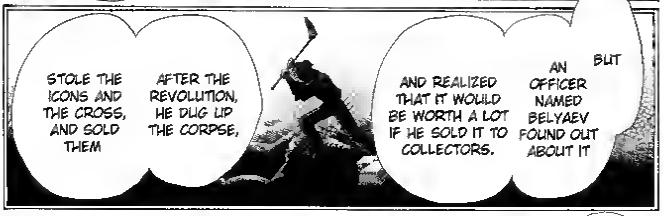
I FOUND YOU AFTER ALL...!!
AH...
SHH
PULL

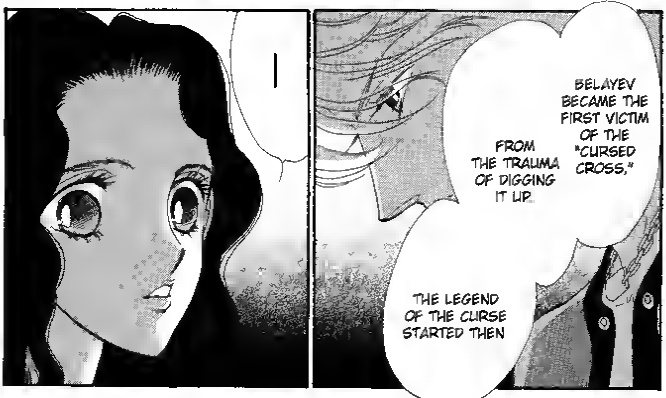
...!!
...
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
SENA'S SMELL
THERE WAS SOMETHING I NEEDED TO INVESTIGATE
YOU TOO, SENA WHY WERE YOU PRETENDING TO BE A GHOST...?
...WHY DID YOU COME ALL THE WAY TO THE HERMITAGE?

I READ THAT MAIL.
THERE'S URANIUM IN RASPUTIN'S CROSS AND ICON, AND IT'S REALLY DANGEROUS...
I REALLY NEEDED TO TELL YOU...
BECAUSE YOU WENT MISSING...!
AND THEN YOU CAME IN AND WERE IN TROUBLE, SO I SAVED YOU
THAT'S A LITTLE DISAP-POINTING.
YOU CAME TO TELL ME THAT?
YOU DID?
YOU DID IT YOURSELF, RIGHT?
THE MAFIA DIDN'T SEARCH YOUR ROOM.
BUT I KNEW YOU WERE ALIVE
WHAT?
EVERYONE SAID "SENA WAS KILLED BY THE MAFIA."

SO YOU COULD SEARCH FOR THE "ICON OF THE VIRGIN" IN PEACE,
WITHOUT THE ROMANOV FAMILY OR THE MAFIA INTERFERING
THE ICONS HAD THE SIGNATURES OF NICHOLAS II AND HIS FOUR DAUGHTERS.
THE "ICON OF THE VIRGIN" PROBABLY HAS THE SIGNATURE OF THE EMPRESS AND THE PRINCE.
IF YOU FIND THE "ICON OF THE VIRGIN" AND COMPLETE THE SET, THEN IT'LL BE WORTH A LOT—
RIGHT?
YOU INVESTIGATED WHY IT HAD SIGNATURES TOO, RIGHT?
...WHILE YOU WERE INVESTIGATING ABOUT THE CROSS IN JAPAN, I DID SOME RESEARCH ON RASPUTIN


SIMANOVICH, A JEWELER WHO WAS RASPUTIN'S SECRETARY, SAID
THE EMPEROR'S FAMILY WAS AT RASPUTIN'S FUNERAL.
DURING THE FUNERAL, THEY SIGNED RASPUTIN'S FAVORITE ICONS AND PUT THEM IN THE CASKET.


BUT AN OFFICER NAMED BELYAEV FOUND OUT ABOUT IT
AND REALIZED THAT IT WOULD BE WORTH A LOT IF HE SOLD IT TO COLLECTORS.
AFTER THE REVOLUTION, HE DUG UP THE CORPSE,
STOLE THE ICONS AND THE CROSS, AND SOLD THEM


I
BELAYEV BECAME THE FIRST VICTIM OF THE "CURSED CROSS,"
FROM THE TRAUMA OF DIGGING IT UP.
THE LEGEND OF THE CURSE STARTED THEN

I THOUGHT, THIS TIME,
YOU CONCEALED YOURSELF BECAUSE YOU WERE SAD THAT THE PRINCESS DIED
SO I WANTED TO COMFORT YOU
BUT...
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AFTER ALL.
I...
LIKE IT
I
IS BEING AMBITIOUS A BAD THING?
STRANGELY I'M RELIEVED

GOOD.